

Message Text

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ACTION PM-05

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 NEA-11 SSM-03 CIAE-00
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C O N F I D E N T I A L OSLO 2476

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINR, PORG, NO
SUBJ: NORWEGIANS REQUEST HIGH LEVEL DISCUSSIONS ON UNIFIL

REF: (A) STATE 123535 (B) 127217

BEGIN SUMMARY: MINISTRY OF DEFENSE UNDERSECRETARY HOLST MAY 22ND
REQUESTED EMBASSY TO HELP ARRANGE FOR A DISCUSSION OF UNIFIL,
ITS MANDATE AND ITS FUTURE WITH APPROPRIATE USG OFFICIALS NEXT WEEK.
ACTION REQUESTED: SEE PARA 6 BELOW. END SUMMARY.

1. ON MAY 22ND, MOD UNDERSECRETARY HOLST CONTACTED THE EMBASSY
TO STATE THAT HE AND MINISTER OF DEFENSE HANSEN WOULD LIKE TO TAKE
ADVANTAGE OF THEIR PRESENCE IN WASHINGTON AT NEXT WEEK'S SUMMIT
TO HAVE CONVERSATIONS ABOUT THE STATUS OF THE UNIFIL OPERATION.
HOLST SAID THAT SINCE THE US HAD BEEN SO INSTRUMENTAL IN THE
DEVELOPMENT OF RESOLUTION 245 AND 246, THE NORWEGIANS WOULD LIKE
TO REVIEW THE US VIEWS OF THE OPERATION TO DATE OF UNIFIL AND
THE OUTLOOK FOR THE FUTURE WITH APPROPRIATE USG OFFICIALS. HOLST
STATED THAT THE NORWEGIANS PLAN TO HAVE SIMILAR DISCUSSIONS
IN NEW YORK WITH THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF HIS REPRESENTATIVE
ON JUNE 2ND.

2. HOLST HAD NOT SPECIFIC SUGGESTIONS AS TO WHO IN THE SATE
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DEPARTMENT THE NORWEGIANS SHOULD SEE. HOWEVER, HE THOUGHT IT WOULD
BE APPROPRIATE TO TALK TO PEOPLE IN IO DEALING WITH UNIFIL AS WELL
AS WITH OFFICERS SUBSTANTIVELY ENGAGED IN MIDDLE EASTERN POLICY,
PRESUMABLY NEA.

3. FROM THE NORWEGIAN POINT OF VIEW, THE BEST TIME TO SCHEDULE
SUCH DISCUSSIONS WOULD BE ON THURSDAY, JUNE 1ST. HOLST STATED

THAT THE NORWEGIANS RECOGNIZED THE INCLUSION OF A MINISTERIAL LEVEL NORWEGIAN MIGHT CAUSE USG SOME PROTOCOL PROBLEMS BUT ADDED THAT THE NORWEGIANS WERE VERY FLEXIBLE ON THIS SCORE. HANSEN DOES NOT STAND ON FORMALITY ON THE OTHER HAND IF HANSEN'S INCLUSION WAS A PROBLEM TO THE US, THE MINISTER COULD DROP OUT OF THE TALKS.

4. IN A RELATED VEIN, HOLST SAID THE NORWEGIAN GOVERNMENT HAD TAKEN NOTE OF THE USG REQUEST (PARA 1 STATE 123535) THAT IT MIGHT BE USEFUL TO INCLUDE A RESPONSIBLE NORWEGIAN GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL ON THE UPCOMING JUNE 5TH DISCUSSIONS WITH NDRE ABOUT ELECTRONIC SURVEILLANCE. THE NORWEGIAN GOVERNMENT AGREED THIS WOULD BE USEFUL AND PROPOSED THAT HOLST BE PREPARED TO DISCUSS POLICY QUESTIONS RELATED TO THIS SPECIFIC ISSUE DURING HIS JUNE 1ST WASHINGTON TALKS. WHEN WE POINTED OUT THAT WE THOUGHT WASHINGTON'S SUGGESTION WAS AIMED AT HAVING A GON OFFICIAL PHYSICALLY PRESENT DURING THE JUNE 5TH TALKS, HOLST STATED THAT COULD BE DISCUSSED ON JUNE 1ST AND IF NECESSARY HE COULD RETURN FROM NEW YORK AFTER THE WEEKEND TO TAKE PART IN THE OPENING SESSIONS OF THE JUNE 5TH TALKS OR ANOTHER GON REPRESENTATIVE COULD BE DESIGNATED. IN ANY CASE, THE FINAL DECISION ABOUT A GON REPRESENTATIVE ON THE NDRE TALKS COULD, HE FELT, AWAIT HIS DISCUSSIONS NEXT WEEK.

5. IN LIGHT OF HANSEN'S DEPARTURE FOR WASHINGTON THIS WEEKEND, HOLST HAS ASKED THAT WE GET HIM OUR ANSWER WITH A SUGGESTED SCHEDULE FOR JUNE 1ST BY FRIDAY.
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6 COMMENT AND ACTION REQUESTED: THE EMBASSY ENDORSES THE NORWEGIANS' REQUEST FOR DISCUSSIONS WITH APPROPRIATE US OFFICIALS ON UNIFIL NEXT WEEK. WE ASK WASHINGTON TO REPLY NO LATER THAN OOB OSLO TIME FRIDAY, MAY 26TH SO THAT WE MAY PASS OUR ANSWER TO HOLST.
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